

Abstract

The present invention provides carbohydrate encapsulated nanoparticles. In particular, the present invention provides metallic nanoparticles (e.g. gold nanoparticles) that
5 are encapsulated in biologically important carbohydrate molecules, such as sugars, sugar derivatives, P-blood group antigens and analogues thereof. The present invention also provides methods of employing these carbohydrate encapsulated nanoparticles in diagnostic and therapeutic applications.